

# CRNA Education and Training

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are highly educated, advanced practice registered nurses who deliver anesthesia to patients in exactly the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as physician anesthesiologists.



CRNAs have a minimum of **7 to 8 years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology** before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.



Baccalaureate prepared RN



Critical care nursing experience



Classroom and clinical education and training



Master's or Doctoral Degree from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program<sup>1</sup>

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees

CRNAs obtain an average of



**3.5 years**

of **critical care nursing experience** before entering a nurse anesthesia program.<sup>2</sup> They are the **only** anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.

Constant Learners



CRNAs must pass a **National Certification Examination** and be recertified every **2 years** so they are current on the latest anesthesia techniques and technologies. Anesthesiologists are recertified **every 10 years**.



Minimum **40 hours** of approved continuing education

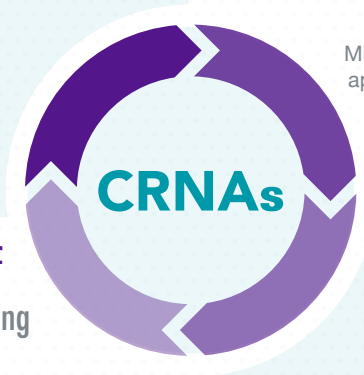


Documentation of substantial anesthesia practice

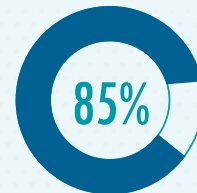


Maintenance of current state licensure

CRNAs are qualified to administer **every type of anesthesia in any healthcare setting**, including pain management for acute or chronic pain.



Research shows that CRNAs are



**less costly** to educate and train than anesthesiologists.<sup>3</sup>



Manage difficult cases



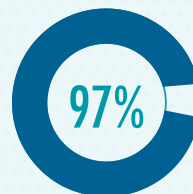
Use advanced monitoring equipment



Interpret diagnostic information



Respond appropriately in any emergency situation



of employers report **high satisfaction levels** with the preparedness of recently graduated CRNAs.<sup>4</sup>

As the demand for healthcare continues to grow, increasing the number of CRNAs will be key to containing costs while maintaining quality care.

1. Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs  
2. National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists 2012 NBCRNA Annual Report of NCE Performance Data  
3. Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Anesthesia Providers, Nursing Economics, June 2010  
4. Assessment of Recent Graduates Preparedness for Entry into Practice, AANA Journal, November 2013